Profit making PSEs

2187. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 49 operative PSEs under his Department, only 13 PSEs are making profit during the current financial year even when Government have spent huge amount for their revival since 1990-91; and

(b) how many PSEs, till date, have signed MoUs, which aim at improving performance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Out of 49 PSEs under the Department of Heavy Industry, 13 PSEs have posted profits during 2000-2001. Government has provided fresh cash infusion of Rs.637 crore for revival plans of 12 PSEs sanctioned by BIFR. In addition, in 7 other PSEs, Government have undertaken restructuring on its own providing fresh infusion of Rs. 531 crore.

(b) During 2001-2002,8 PSEs namely, Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. (AYCL), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd. (BYNL), Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. (EPI), Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. (HPC), HMT Ltd. (HMT), Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) and Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. (BBUNL) have signed MoU with Government.

Compulsory retirement of handicapped employees in MUL

2188. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maruti Udyog Ltd. has resorted to compulsory retirement of handicapped employees;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the number of employees, retired so far as a result thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of representations have been made by the affected employees in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to mitigate the grievances of these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir. As per Maruti Udyog Ltd., (MUL) it has not resorted to compulsory retirement of handicapped employees.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New heavy industry in Assam

2189. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up any new heavy industry in hilly area of Assam during the years 2001 -2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Department of Heavy Industry has no proposal to set up any new public sector unit in hilly area of Assam during 2001 -2002 and 2002-2003.

News-item "Indian diesel engines are outdated"

2190. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian diesel engines are outdated", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 8th November, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the diesel engines are ancient and the economic figure for diesel engine cars is far below those of petrol engine cars;

(c) whether it is also a fact that particularly in Germany the technology on diesel engine has progressed tremendously; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to bring the Indian technology on diesel engine up-to-date?